

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 H-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2846

S E C R E T MANAGUA 1639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL LONG COMMITTEE HEARINGS

REF: (A) STATE 078075 (B) STATE 079389

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA TODAY (APRIL 11), AMBASSADOR ASKED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR SPECIAL PERMISSION TO BE GRANTED TO PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO TO LEAVE COUNTRY AND TESTIFY AT LONG COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON APRIL 21. SOMOZA SAID HE HAD RECEIVED KOCH LETTER DATED APRIL 7 MAKING SAME REQUEST AND GAVE AMBASSADOR COPY OF LETTER.

2. AS WE EXPECTED, SOMOZA REPEATED WELL-KNOWN POSITION THAT LEGAL DISPUTE WAS BETWEEN HUECK AND CHAMORRO AND UP TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO DECIDE. HE DECLARED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR HIM TO INTERVENE IN PROCEEDINGS, AND HE WOULD NOT DO SO. HE SAID THAT CHAMORRO WAS NOT A KEY WITNESS. FERNANDO CARDENAL HAD ALREADY SLANDERED HIS GOVERNMENT AT LENGTH IN FRASER COMMITTEE HEARINGS LAST JUNE. SOMOZA SAID THAT THE INSTANT CHAMORRO SETTLED LIBEL SUIT HE IMMEDIATELY WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO LEAVE COUNTRY AND TESTIFY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT PRIOR TO LIBEL SUIT, CHAMORRO TRAVELED FREELY TO SIP AND OTHER MEETINGS, PUBLICLY CRITICIZED HIS GOVERNMENT, AND RETURNED TO NICARAGUA WHERE HE WAS PROTECTED BY THE LAWS.

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HE ADDED THAT FERNANDO CARDENAL HAD DONE THE SAME, BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT RECEIVED NO CREDIT FOR CIVIL FREEDOMS ENJOYED BY HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

3. AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTTEL B, WE TOLD SOMOZA THAT IT WAS OUR BELIEF THAT CHAMORRO'S INABILITY TO LEAVE COUNTRY TO TESTIFY WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO HIS OWN INTERESTS.

IT WAS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF
INTERVENING IN THE MATTER AND PREFERRED TO LET THE LEGAL
PROCESS TAKE ITS COURSE.
THEBERGE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
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Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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